



Passing Bicyclists

Bicyclists may be using the roads at any time. Please pass them with caution, treating them as you would any other vehicle you wish to pass on a two-lane road. Because bicyclists do not always go very well in a straight line, allow extra width when passing.

Passing is prohibited on two-lane roads:

1. In areas marked by a solid yellow line on the right of the center line, or a "Do Not Pass" Sign, or double yellow lines.
2. Within 100 feet of a railroad crossing.
3. Within 100 feet of a bridge, viaduct or tunnel.
4. When a car approaching from the opposite direction makes passing unsafe.
5. On a hill or curve where it is not possible to see oncoming vehicles which might be close enough to be a hazard.
6. Within 100 feet of an intersection.
7. On the shoulder of the road.
8. When a school bus is stopped to load or unload passengers.

You must always drive on the right half of the roadway except:

1. When overtaking and passing another vehicle going in the same direction.
2. When an obstruction makes it necessary to drive on the left of the center line, but only after yielding to oncoming traffic.
3. Upon a roadway with two or more marked lanes in the same direction.
4. Upon a roadway restricted to one way traffic. Upon a multi-lane, two way highway you must never drive to the left of the center line except when authorized to do so by the traffic control signals or signs or when making a left turn into an alley, private road or driveway.

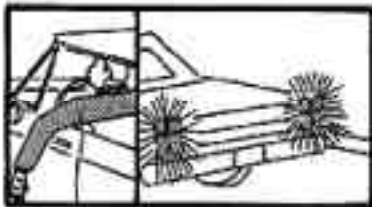
Weaving

It is unlawful to weave from one lane of traffic to another in order to move faster than the flow of traffic. A motorist may change lanes on a multi-lane highway and pass slower moving vehicles only when it is safe to do so. A driver's signaling to change lanes should be clearly indicated so as to warn the following vehicles of the movement.



TURN SIGNALS

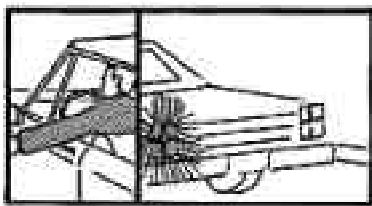
Turn movements by motor vehicles are regulated by law, and failure to observe or comply is a violation. Drivers must know and understand the law in order to turn safely and avoid accidents.



STOP



RIGHT TURN



LEFT TURN

Turn signals must be given whenever a turn is made to the right or the left. You must give a continuous turn signal for an adequate distance to alert other drivers before turning.



Illegal Signals: It is against the law to flash turn signals as a courtesy or “do pass” signals to other drivers in the rear.

How To Make A Right Turn

Give a right turn signal at the proper time and approach the intersection in the right-hand lane, staying close to the curb. Make the turn in such a way as to end up in the right-hand lane of the street into which you turned. Do not make a wide swing into another lane of traffic.

How To Make A Left Turn

Move into the farthest left lane going in your direction, give the left turn signal, keeping the wheels straight at the intersection until the turn is made, and yield the right-of-way to all vehicles which are approaching from the opposite direction. After yielding and when safe to do so, proceed with your turn.

U-Turns

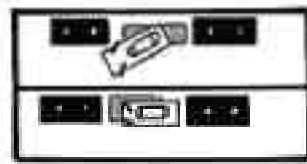
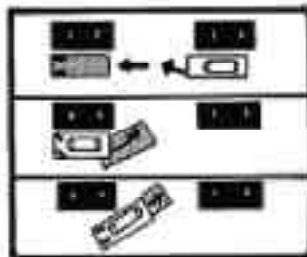
Do not make a “U” turn on a curve or near the top of a hill if you cannot be seen by other drivers approaching from either direction.

PARKING

Make it a practice to never leave your vehicle until you have stopped the motor, put the gear in low or reverse or park positions, set the parking brake, and removed the keys.

Steps to Parallel Parking

1. Stop even with car ahead and about 2 feet away from it.
2. Turn wheels sharp right and back slowly toward car behind.
3. As your front door passes the back bumper of the car ahead, quickly straighten the wheels and continue to back straight.
4. When clear of car ahead, turn wheels sharp left and back slowly to car behind.
5. Turn wheels sharp right and pull toward center of parking space.
6. Always give appropriate signal.





Backing Up

1. Before backing, you should look to the front, sides and rear, and continue to look to the rear while backing. Do not depend on your mirror. You should turn your head and look over your right shoulder while backing. In residential areas be especially careful to watch out for children. It's a good idea to always check behind the vehicle before backing.
2. For buses and large vehicles, the driver should use all mirrors and utilize a reliable person to observe and direct while backing the vehicles.

You may not stop, stand, or park:

1. On the street side of any parked vehicle.
2. On a sidewalk.
3. Within an intersection.
4. On a crosswalk.
5. Between a safety zone and the adjacent curb.
6. Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when stopping, standing, or parking would obstruct traffic.
7. Upon a bridge or overpass, or within a tunnel, underpass or subway.
8. On any railroad tracks.
9. On a controlled access highway.
10. At any place marked by a no-parking sign.

You may not stop, stand, or park except momentarily to pick up or dropoff passengers:

1. In front of a public or private driveway.
2. Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant.
3. Within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection.
4. Within 30 feet of a stop sign, yield sign, or traffic control signal.
5. Within 20 feet of a fire station driveway.
6. Within 50 feet of a railroad crossing.
7. At any place where official signs prohibit standing.

It is against the law to park on a highway. If the vehicle is disabled, you should make every practical effort to park off the highway leaving free passage and a clear view of your vehicle for 200 feet in each direction.



MAXIMUM SPEED LIMITS

(Unless otherwise posted)

All vehicles	55
Rural interstate when posted.	70
Urban interstate when posted	65

The speed limit for any business or residence district is 30 miles per hour maximum unless otherwise posted.

Driving Too Slowly

While driving too fast is very dangerous, driving too slowly on certain highways can also be dangerous. When there are two or more lanes for traffic moving in the same direction, slower vehicles should use the right hand lane except when passing or making a left turn. In any case, you must not drive slower than the minimum speed limit or so slow as to interfere with the normal flow of traffic.

School Buses

You must stop when overtaking or meeting a stopped school bus, except where highways are separated in the center by median strips; then only vehicles following in the same direction must stop. Warning will be given in advance by the flashing red or amber lights on the front and rear of the bus. It is not necessary to stop for a school bus on a controlled access highway if the bus is in a loading zone where pedestrians are not permitted to cross. After stopping, you may proceed only when the bus resumes motion or when the flashing lights turn off.

Railroad Crossings

You must always stop within 50 feet but not less than 15 feet from the nearest rail when:

1. The signal is flashing.
2. The crossing gates are lowered.
3. A flagman is giving a signal.
4. A train is approaching so closely as to create an immediate hazard.
5. A train gives a warning signal and is an immediate hazard due to its speed or nearness to the crossing.
6. A stop sign is posted.

Under no circumstances should a motorist drive through, around or under any crossing gate while the gate is closed. After stopping, remain stopped until all tracks have been cleared and it is safe to proceed.



Highway Work Zones

In order to minimize inconvenience, most road work in Georgia is done while the road is still open to traffic. Drivers and passengers are at higher risk in a work zone, as are the workers who are often only inches from passing vehicles. Over half of all fatal injuries to road workers are caused by being struck by a motor vehicle, and a third of these by vehicles intruding into the work space. The Georgia Department of Transportation alone has experienced 53 workers' deaths in work zones between 1972 and 2002.

Work Zones

Highway work zones are defined as portions of a highway or street where construction, reconstruction, or maintenance work is being done to the road, its shoulders, or any other items related to the roadway. This definition also includes mobile work such as underground and overhead utility maintenance, snow removal, and land surveying activities.



Highway work zones are set up according to the type of road and the work to be done on the road. Signing, roadway markings, and flaggers are used to direct drivers safely through work zones or carefully marked detours. Motorists are responsible for knowing how to read and react to these directions. Paying attention, and driving cautiously and courteously are the most important steps to preventing accidents while driving through a work zone. Watch for the color orange. It means road work.



Obey the Signs

All warning signs in work zones have an orange background and black letters or symbols. They are used with other traffic control devices or flaggers to help direct traffic safely through work areas and to protect highway workers.

Reduce Your Speed

One of the best responses to the presence of road work is to reduce your speed to increase your margin of safety. In many work zone situations, normal speed limits are reduced for safety reasons. If there are no reduced speed limits posted, drivers should obey the normal posted speed limit. Reducing speed and adjustments in your lane position can reduce the risk of an accident or injury.



Advisory speed limits are used to identify safe speeds for specific conditions within a work zone. These black and orange signs are always used with warning signs. Work zone speed limits are short term regulatory speed limits that are established for worker safety due to traffic in adjacent lanes. These speed limits are marked with standard black and white speed limit signs. Motorists who disobey regulatory speed limits in a work zone may be found guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature and will be punished by a fine of not less than \$100.00 nor more than \$2,000.00, or by imprisonment for a term not to exceed 12 months, or both.



Obey Flaggers

Flaggers are used to direct traffic through and around work zones. In a work zone, a flagger has the same authority as a regulatory sign, so you can be cited for disobeying the flagger's directions.



Yield to Amber Lights in Work Zones

Work vehicles and heavy equipment will typically have flashing or revolving amber lights. The driver of a vehicle must yield the right-of-way to these vehicles. Reduce your speed as you approach any work zone where vehicles have amber lights displayed.

Adjust Your Lane Position

Travel lanes are likely to be closed in work zones and lane patterns changed as the work progresses. When lanes are closed or narrowed and workers are working near traffic, you should change lanes or just move away in your lane to give added protection for you and the workers along the roadway. Road workers will do their best to avoid any conflict with drivers, but the job often requires that the work be close to your lane of travel. Reduced speed and adjustments in your lane position can reduce the risk of accident or injury.





Yield to Mobile Work Vehicles

Various road work can be performed without subjecting motorist to closed travel lanes. Pavement maintenance, debris removal, paint striping, utility work, and snow removal are examples of work accomplished while moving in traffic. Vehicles used in performing this type work will have flashing amber lights and may have flashing arrows directing traffic to merge left or right. The vehicles may also display signs for the purpose of directing traffic or indicating hazardous conditions. These vehicles usually work at very slow speeds, such as 5 MPH, and may even require stopping in the roadway. For your safety and the safety of others - slow down, yield to the work in progress, and follow any directions displayed by the work vehicles.



Driving Tips

When you travel through a work zone, remember these four tips:

- 1. Reduce your speed.**
- 2. Adjust your lane position away from workers.**
- 3. Prepare for the unexpected!**
- 4. Watch for speed limit signs. Fines are doubled in most work zones.**



OTHER LAWS

Controlled-Access Roadways

You are prohibited from entering or leaving any controlled-access (interstate) roadway at unauthorized entrances or exits. Certain types of vehicles may be prohibited on controlled-access roadways if signs are posted to this effect. Backing up is prohibited on controlled-access roadways.

Coasting

The driver of any motor vehicle, when traveling down a hill, must not coast with the gears or transmission of the vehicle in neutral.

Driving While Intoxicated

Any person who is under the influence of alcohol or any other drug which makes the person unable to drive safely is prohibited from driving or being in physical control of any kind of vehicle. A person, 21 or more years of age, is considered "*Under the Influence of Intoxicants*" when 0.08gm or more by alcohol weight is present in the blood. A person, under 21 years of age, is considered "*Under the Influence of Intoxicants*" when 0.02gm or more by alcohol weight is present in the blood. Penalties for driving under the influence of intoxicants are severe, with fines up to \$1000 and jail sentences up to 12 months, and mandatory suspension of your driving privileges.

Reckless Driving

Reckless driving is defined as driving any vehicle in reckless disregard for the safety of person or property. Penalties for reckless driving include fines up to \$1000, imprisonment up to 6 months, and suspension of your license.

Racing

When two or more people compete or race on any street or highway, when one of the motor vehicles is beside or to the rear of that of a competing driver, and one driver tries to prevent the passing or overtaking of the competing driver by acceleration or maneuver, or when one or more persons compete in a race against time, they are considered to be drag racing. In Georgia it is unlawful to drag race. The penalties for committing this violation may include imprisonment, a fine, and the suspension of your driving privilege.

Aggressive Driving

A person commits the offense of aggressive driving when he or she operates any motor vehicle with the intent to annoy, harass, molest, intimidate, injure, or obstruct another person. A conviction of aggressive driving will be a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature.

Following Emergency Vehicles

The driver of any vehicle, other than one on official business, must not follow any fire fighting apparatus traveling in response to a fire alarm, or other emergency vehicles, closer than **200 feet**, or drive into or park any vehicle within **500 feet** of any fire apparatus stopped in answer to a fire alarm.



Trucks and Vehicles Pulling Trailers

When traveling upon a roadway outside of a business or residential district, trucks and vehicles pulling trailers must leave sufficient space between themselves and other vehicles of the same kind, so that an overtaking vehicle can enter and occupy the space without danger.

Median Strip

It is unlawful to drive across a dividing section, barrier, or unpaved strip which separates two roadways at any point other than an authorized opening or crossover.

Impaired Hearing

It is unlawful to operate a motor vehicle while wearing a headphone, headset, or any other device which would impair the driver's ability to hear. Also, the driver must not wear anything which would obstruct his vision while driving a motor vehicle.

Obstructing the Driver's View

If a vehicle is overloaded with passengers or freight, so as to obstruct the view of the driver or interfere with the mechanical operation, it cannot be legally driven. Passengers must not ride in a position that interferes with the driver's view or his control of the vehicle.

Open Doors

Opening the doors of a vehicle on the side on which traffic is moving is prohibited unless it is safe to do so and unless it can be done without interfering with the movement of other traffic.

One Way

Under no circumstances may a vehicle be driven contrary to the direction posted on a one-way street or highway, except in situations where police vehicles or authorized emergency vehicles find it necessary to do so.

Riding in Trailers

Riding in a house trailer, or any other vehicular drawn trailer, is prohibited while it is being moved upon a street or highway. There is a potential danger of injury to occupants within a trailer if it should accidentally become unhitched from the towing vehicle.

Stopping

When stopping or slowing down suddenly, the proper hand, arm, or brake operated stop signal must be given.